

Print these on card stock and cut them apart placing them in a cup on the table. Each night you can draw one topic out of the cup to spark a conversation at the dinner table. The accompanying page gives you scriptures to think about in connection with the conversation. It also gives a possible answer to some of the questions.

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**1. If you had \$5000 but had to get rid of all of it, what would you do?**

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**2. What would you do if you heard your best friend said something mean about you to someone else?**

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**3. What is the earliest memory you remember? How old were you?**

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**4. Choose a word to describe someone at the table and see if everyone can guess who it is.**

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**5. What would you ask God for if you were asking for the person next to you?**

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**6. What do you wish everyone at the table would pray for you?**

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**7. What is the most beautiful thing you've ever seen in nature?**

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**8. A little boy followed an animal, and he walked in a zig-zag line, but suddenly he started jumping instead. A few minutes later, he ran as fast as he could, then he jumped into the lake. Why?**

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**9. How would you draw a picture if you didn't have a pencil, pen, crayon, or marker?**

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**10. I'm bread, light, milk, meat, a lawyer, judge, teacher, storyteller, and a song. What am I?**

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**11. The old woman hit the dog with a newspaper. The old man yelled at her, but then he hugged her, thanking her. Why?**

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**12. Twin sisters walked on the road. One was hot; one felt a breeze. They heard a bird. One heard noise; one heard a song. They fell in a pond. One was wet; one refreshed. What's the difference?**

## Table Talk Fun and Silliness with a Serious Side Too

A free gift from Terrie Hellard-Brown, writer and Books that Spark podcast

Enjoy!

1. This is a fun exercise but also an opportunity to teach about the love of money and the motivations of the heart. Any number of scriptures could be used in this conversation:  
*Great blessings belong to those who show mercy to others. Mercy will be given to them. (Matthew 5:7, ERV)*  
*The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people have turned away from what we believe because they want to get more and more money. But they have caused themselves a lot of pain and sorrow. (1 Timothy 6:10, ERV)*
2. Who is the troublemaker in this story? Do you trust your friend or believe the one telling you about the gossip? Would you want to hear what they said? Could you forgive them if it turned out to be true? Would you want to know if it were true?  
*Troublemakers are always causing problems. Their gossip breaks up the closest of friends. (Proverbs 10:28, ERV)*  
*Without wood, a fire goes out. Without gossip, arguments stop. Charcoal keeps the coals glowing, wood keeps the fire burning, and troublemakers keep arguments alive. People love to hear gossip. It is like tasty food on its way to the stomach. (Proverbs 26:20-22, ERV)*
3. Jesus told us to remember something. Do you know what it is?  
*Then he took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke off some pieces, gave them to the apostles and said, "This bread is my body that I am giving for you. Eat this to remember me." (Luke 22:19, ERV)*
4. Our words can encourage and build up people or they can hurt people.  
*So encourage each other and help each other grow stronger in faith, just as you are already doing. (1 Thess. 5:11, ERV)*  
*Kind words are like a life-giving tree, but lying words will crush your spirit. (Proverbs 15:4, ERV)*  
*Kind words are like honey; they are easy to accept and good for your health. (Proverbs 16:24, ERV)*
5. Good people ask the LORD to bless others. They ask God, their Savior, to do good things. (Psalm 24:5, ERV)  
*So always tell each other the wrong things you have done. Then pray for each other. Do this so that God can heal you. Anyone who lives the way God wants can pray, and great things will happen. (James 5:16, ERV)*
6. Pray in the Spirit at all times. Pray with all kinds of prayers, and ask for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready. Never give up. Always pray for all of God's people. (Eph. 6:18, ERV)  
*Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. (Phil. 4:6, ERV)*
7. God created nature, and in it, we can see His heart, His handiwork and know that He is real.  
*God created the sky and the earth. (Gen. 1:1, ERV) or read the whole chapter.*  
*There are things about God that people cannot see—his eternal power and all that makes him God. But since the beginning of the world, those things have been easy for people to understand. They are made clear in what God has made. So people have no excuse for the evil they do. (Romans 1:20, ERV)*
8. The little boy imitated the animals he followed. First he followed a little snake as it zig-zagged through the grass, but it disappeared down a hole, and then he saw a rabbit hopping and followed it. As the rabbit jumped into its hole, he started following a deer as it ran away from him, and soon it was too far away, so he followed a frog who jumped into the pond.  
This is a silly story, but in real life we need to think about who we follow and who we imitate. Jesus said we should follow Him and become His disciples.  
*Jesus continued to say to all of them, "Any of you who want to be my follower must stop thinking about yourself*

*and what you want. You must be willing to carry the cross that is given to you every day for following me. (Luke 9:23, ERV)*

9. There's no wrong answer, but some may be kind of, shall we say, gross! Kids are interesting and very creative. However, when we have a problem we don't know how to solve, we can always ask God for help. We can bring any problem or need to Him, and He will answer.

*Do any of you need wisdom? Ask God for it. He is generous and enjoys giving to everyone. So he will give you wisdom. (James 1:5, ERV)*

*Trust the Lord completely, and don't depend on your own knowledge. With every step you take, think about what he wants, and he will help you go the right way. (Proverbs 3:5-6, ERV)*

10. These are all descriptions of the Bible. Can you think how each one fits as description for the Bible? Why is the Bible so important? How should we feel about it?

*Your word is like a lamp that guides my steps, a light that shows the path I should take. (Psalm 119:105, ERV)*

*I love your word. Time and again it has been proven true. (Psalm 119:140, ERV)*

*Your word makes me happy, like someone who has found a great treasure. (Psalm 119:162, ERV)*

*Do you know other verses that tell us about the Word of God?*

11. The woman saw a black widow landing on the dog's back, and she was afraid it would hurt the dog. So, she was actually hitting the spider away from the dog so that the dog would be safe. We don't always know the whole story and jump to a conclusion. The man thought the woman was being mean when she was actually being merciful.

God says that even what people meant for evil, He can turn to good. He has a plan that He is working out. We need to trust Him even when things seem bad. He is still at work. So, we should never think that God is mean, even when He is disciplining us. That really shows He cares and loves us and wants the best for us.

We also need to be careful when judging what we think someone else is doing. We cannot judge people's motives. We may need to understand more to really know what's going on. Of course, some people truly are mean, and that is another problem. We just need to be careful not to judge others because we think we know what they are doing instead of finding out what is actually going on.

Remember, when we need wisdom, ask God for it. He will give it to us.

*But the LORD said to Samuel, "Eliab is tall and handsome, but don't judge by things like that. God doesn't look at what people see. People judge by what is on the outside, but the LORD looks at the heart. Eliab is not the right man." (1 Sam. 16:7, ERV)*

*My son, don't reject the LORD's discipline, and don't be angry when he corrects you. (Proverbs 3:11, ERV)*

*It is true that you planned to do something bad to me. But really, God was planning good things. God's plan was to use me to save the lives of many people. And that is what happened. (Genesis 50:20, ERV)*

12. Both sisters were experiencing the same things. They just saw them completely differently. What we think about and how we think is important to how we feel and experience life. Think about Winnie the Pooh and Eeyore. Winnie the Pooh is usually humming a happy tune, and even when he gets into trouble, he simply says, "Oh bother." Eeyore sees the negative no matter what is happening. He expects something bad even when celebrating something good. Attitudes matter!

*Brothers and sisters, continue to think about what is good and worthy of praise. Think about what is true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. (Phil. 4:8, ERV)*

*Life is always hard for the poor, but the right attitude can turn it into a party. (Proverbs 15:15, ERV)*

*A good attitude will support you when you are sick, but if you give up, nothing can help. (Proverbs 18:14, ERV)*

*In your life together, think the way Christ Jesus thought. (Philippians 2:5 ERV)*